

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 SCI-06

INT-08 FEA-02 AID-20 IO-14 NEA-11 AF-10 EUR-25 DRC-01

/202 W

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P 290901Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1290

INFO AMEMB TOKYO

AMEMB TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

COMNAV YOKOSUKA JAPAN

CINCPAC/POLAD HAWAII

USARBCO FORT BUCKNER

313TH AD KAB

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MILI XE ENRG JA PF

SUBJ: SENAKAKU ISLANDS (UB)

SUMMARY. PARACEL INCIDENT HAS SOMEWHAT REVIVED OKINAWAN INTEREST
IN SENKAKUS BUT LOCAL GOJ AGENCIES SEEM DETERMINED TO KEEP A LOW
PROFILE ON THESE ISLANDS. ONE JAPANESE COMPANY IS INVESTIGATING
OIL POTENTIAL NEARBY. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE PRC CLASH WITH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE IN THE PARACELS HAS
REKINDLED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY LOCAL INTEREST IN THE DISPUTED
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SENKAKU ISLANDS. THE OKINAWA PRESS HAS CARRIED REPORTS ATTRIBUTED

TO INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN HONGKONG WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE PRC'S ACTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED IN PART TO WARN THE JAPANESE TO KEEP HANDS OFF THE SENKAKUS.

2. UNTIL THIS INCIDENT, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE APPARENT INTEREST LOCALLY IN THE SENKAKUS. OCCASIONAL STORIES HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS DESCRIBING THE OIL POTENTIAL OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AROUND THE SENKAKUS, BUT EVEN NOW WITH THE OIL CRISIS, THE STORIES HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO THE INNER PAGES, STIMULATING NO NOTICEABLE RESPONSE.

3. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS PATTERN WAS A RECENT ARTICLE CONCERNING OIL EXPLORATION AROUND MIYAKO ISLAND TO THE SOUTHEAST OF THE SENKAKUS, TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE SANWA-GROUP BASED URUMA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CO. (SANWA BANK, TOKYO PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CO., NISSHO-IWAI, MARUZEN OIL, TOTAL 27 COMPANIES). PRESIDENT OMIJA OF THE PERSIA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CO. (OWNER OF DRILLING RIGHTS IN THE AREA), CONFIRMED TO US THAT THE URUMA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CO. IS EXPLORING THE AREA AROUND MIYAKO AND EXPECTS TO GET FINANCING FROM THE SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL JAPAN PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP. FOR EXPLORATORY DRILLING. ALTHOUGH MR. OMIJA

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WAS SOMEWHAT VAGUE ABOUT EXPLORATION IN THE SENKAKUS, HE STATED THAT THE URUMA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CO. WOULD FOLLOW JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE ON THE MATTER.

4. DURING AN OCTOBER TRIP BY THE CONGEN TO ISHIGAKI, THE NEAREST POPULATION CENTER TO THE SENKAKUS, LOCAL OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN THE ISLANDS' OIL POTENTIAL BUT SEEMED TORN BETWEEN A DESIRE FOR THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON ISHIGAKI'S EMERGING TOURIST INDUSTRY. THEY REPORTED THAT TAIWANESE FISHERMEN CONTINUE TO ENTER THE SENKAKUS FROM TIME TO TIME.

5. THE DIRECTOR OF THE NAHA OFFICE OF THE OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY RECENTLY TOLD US THAT HIS OFFICE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR OIL EXPLORATION AND OTHER PROJECTS FROM VARIOUS GROUPS WITH CONFLICTING CLAIMS TO LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE SENKAKUS. HE SAID THESE APPLICATIONS ARE IN EFFECT BEING SHELVED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN. HE ALSO TOLD US THAT THE GOJ HAS NO PLANS TO BUILD A WEATHER STATION OR ANYTHING ELSE IN THE SENKAKUS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CONVEYED THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE GOJ, AT LEAST LOCALLY, WAS INTENT ON MAINTAINING A VERY LOW POSTURE ON THIS PROBLEM.

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6. IN LINE WITH THIS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NAHA OFFICE OF THE DEFENSE FACILITIES AGENCY CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SELF

DEFENSE FORCES STAY AWAY FROM THE SENKAKUS. PATROLLING IS DONE,
HOWEVER, BY THE CIVIL MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY.
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